Inclusion of coconut in the National Horticulture Mission

2575. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether coconut is also included in the National Horticulture Mission;

(b) if not, the reason therefor;

(c) whether Government have received any representation to include it in the Mission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government has constituted a separate Commodity Board *viz.* Coconut Development Board as a statutory body with its headquarter at Kochi, Kerala State under the administrative control of the Ministry of Agriculture. The objectives of the Board is to promote the overall development of coconut farming and industry in India by implementing various programmes. The Board has also launched a Technology Mission on Coconut since 2001-02 in view of the programmes of the Coconut Development Board, coconut is not included in the National Horticulture Mission.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Encouraging the use of low nutrient analysis fertilizers

2576. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to encourage use of low nutrient analysis fertilizer products such as NP 16:20, NP 20:20, Ammonium Sulphate, etc.; and

(b) the details of steps being taken to supplement identified deficiencies of sulphur and zinc in the soil, especially in South India?